

(a) the number of Social Forestry Programmes launched in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether foreign assistance has also been received for any of these projects; and

(c) if so, the date from which and the details thereof, project-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) No social forestry programme with external assistance has been launched in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

(c) Does not arise.

Conference of Agriculture Ministers

3718. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of State Agriculture Ministers was held in New Delhi on the 19 February, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) main recommendations and suggestions made by the State Agriculture Ministers in the Conference; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Conference of State Agriculture Ministers was held in New Delhi on 19th February, 1997 to consider draft Agriculture Policy Resolution and related matters. The draft Agriculture Policy Resolution was broadly endorsed in the Conference. The draft Resolution is under finalisation keeping in view the suggestions made in the Conference.

Agricultural Import under Uruguay Round Agreement

3719. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a preparatory to opening up agricultural imports, India has started a renegotiating bilateral tariffs on agricultural products imports with several countries;

(b) if so, whether India indicated in the Uruguay Round agreement on agriculture that from the date it opened up its agricultural imports under the agreement, it would levy tariffs as high as 100 per cent on primary agricultural products imports, 150 per cent on processed products and 300 per cent on edible oil imports;

(c) if so, the extent to which India has been able to implement this agreement;

(d) whether the talks on higher agro import tariffs with the foreign countries have been successful; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) India has bound its agricultural tariffs in general at 100% for Primary Products, 150% for processed products and 300% for edible oils. However, there are some agricultural items which were bound during previous round of GATT at zero/low tariffs.

(c) to (e) The consultations with W.T.O. regarding opening up agricultural imports are yet to be finalised.

Distribution of Sprinkler Sets

3720. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had implemented any Scheme for the distribution of sprinkler sets, under Oilseeds Production Programme and National Pulses Development Project for the year 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of beneficiaries, State-wise; and

(d) the pattern of providing the assistance?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One of the component under the Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is distribution of sprinkler sets to the farmers for economic use of water and least soil erosion method of irrigation during the year 1996-97.

(c) The State-wise total number of beneficiaries have not yet become available. However, the physical targets of distribution of sprinkler sets fixed for each State under Oilseeds Production Programme & National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) during 1996-97 are given in the attached statement.

(d) Under both the schemes, a subsidy of Rs. 25,000/- per hectare or 90% of the cost per hectare whichever is less is provided to Small and Marginal farmers, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and women farmers. In the case of women farmers, financial assistance is admissible only to those whose name occur on the land revenue record of the State as land holder and in case she is a joint holder as per such records, the subsidy is restricted to her share of the land.